

### **REMARKS**

This responds to the Office Action mailed on December 8, 2005. Claims 10-11, 13, 15-17, 19-32 are pending. Claims 10-11, 13, 16, 20, 23, and 24 have been amended. Claims 25-32 are new. Claims 1-9, 12, 14, and 18 have been canceled.

#### **Examiner Interview – all claims in condition for allowance**

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner Max H. Noori for granting an interview on January 3, 2005. Per the interview, the Applicant and the Examiner agreed on a strategy to place all claims in condition for allowance as submitted herewith and explained in the comments below. The strategy is herein adopted to place all claims in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully submits that the total number of pending claims (e.g., excluding canceled claims) do not exceed the total number of initially submitted claims.

#### **§102 Rejection of the Claims**

Claims 10-13 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in anticipation of Cherry (U.S. Patent No. 4,458,293). Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is moot in light of the Amendment to the independent claims submitted herewith which incorporates allowable subject matter as recommended by the Examiner.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter in Independent Claims 10, 11, and 25**

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 14-20 if rewritten into independent form. Claims 14-20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that limitations of allowable dependent claim 14 have been incorporated into independent claims 10, 11, and 24. Specifically, the limitations of allowable dependent claim 14, “a plurality of conical washers stacked to form..spring assembly” (Claim 10, 11, 24) are now included in the independent claims. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 10, 11, and 24 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 13, 15-17, 19-23, 25-32 are allowable at least because they depend on an allowable independent claim.

*New dependent claims 25-32*

Applicant respectfully submits that new dependent claims 25-32 do not add new matter, and are allowable at least because they depend on an allowable independent claim. Specifically, dependent claims 25-29 are allowable at least because they depend on allowable independent claim 24. In addition, dependent claims 30-32 are allowable at least because they depend on allowable independent claim 10. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 25-32 are allowable.

# BEST AVAILABLE COPY

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 36 CFR § 1.116  
Serial Number: 10/823,518  
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## CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance and a Notification of Allowance to that effect is expeditiously requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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By 

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 32 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 6 day of January, 2006.

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